

Sukanya Bhattacharya [bah'-tah-cha'-ree-ya]

2020 Presidential Scholar Recipient

"Growing up a competitive gymnast, Sukanya learned early on the importance of challenging herself, leading a team, and being driven, resilient, and passionate. After battling multiple injuries from gymnastics, as a high school student, she focused on helping others lead healthier lives, both in service and academia. She founded and led her school's Tutoring Club, was Treasurer of the Children's Hospital Foundation Teen Board, and volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, where she was selected to the Hope Corps Program. As President of her school's Model United Nations, Sukanya learned to improve health through public policy, and she won the Harvard Model United Nations Social Impact Contest three times, writing about women's health. Sukanya also conducted research at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and she is a co-author of a USDA-funded intervention to improve the nutrition and physical activity practices of children in low-income family daycares."